

Texas Crop Weather

Released: December 6, 2004 (3:00 P.M. CST)
For the week of November 29 - December 5, 2004
TX-CW4904

1-800-626-3142
www.nass.usda.gov/tx

Crop Progress Table - December 5, 2004

Crop	2004	2003	Average 1999-2003
<u>Percent</u>			
Cotton			
Bolls Opening	97	100	100
Harvested	52	74	81
Peanuts			
Harvested	85	96	93
Sorghum			
Harvested	85	89	96
Wheat			
Planted	93	97	96
Emerged	88	90	85
Other Field Crops			
Planted			
Oats	100	97	93
Harvested			
Pecans	64	66	60
Soybeans	99	100	100
Sunflowers	98	97	99

Crop Condition Table - December 5, 2004

Item	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Very poor
<u>Percent</u>					
Cotton	13	41	31	11	4
Wheat	39	40	17	3	1
Range & Pasture . .	13	44	31	10	2

Agricultural Summary: Sunshine replaced cloudy conditions during the majority of the week and allowed some return to harvest activities for many areas. A few locations received additional rainfall during early week while other locations remained too muddy and further drying was needed. Some areas were drying more rapidly and harvest was possible for a few hours each day. Many areas were below freezing during the early morning hours and the first hard freeze occurred for many eastern and central locations. Planting of small grains was limited, but possible in a few southern locations. Grazing conditions were variable across the state as some fields and pastures remained extremely muddy; bogging and trampling remained a problem in these locations. Supplemental feeding continued to increase as temperatures declined and pastures became dormant. Sickness in livestock was variable; some producers reported severe problems with sick livestock; however the sunshine promoted wellness in many other herds. In late week conditions declined with a return to cloudy, drizzly, and foggy with light to moderate rainfall across many areas.

Field Crops Report

Small Grains: Growth and development remained slow, but constant as the result of somewhat improved conditions. Yellowing improved with added sunlight, however drowning out remained a problem for many producers as drying out was slow. Problems with rust continued for some producers. Some planting occurred in southern locations; however further

drying will be necessary before most areas can resume with serious planting. A few producers remained concerned that further planting may not be possible, given the present weather pattern. Statewide, wheat condition was rated at 90 percent of normal, compared with 49 percent last year.

Corn: Harvest remained generally on hold during the week. In areas where harvest was possible most producers were busy with cotton harvest and corn was waiting its turn.

Cotton: Cotton harvest moved ahead in some dryer areas during the week. Ginning activities also became more active in these same locations. Other areas remained on hold until adequate drying occurred and the possibility of abandonment remained a threat for a few producers. Statewide, cotton condition was rated at 73 percent of normal, compared with 54 percent last year.

Sorghum: Harvest was possible for a few producers during the week, however muddy conditions continued to be a problem for many other producers. A few producers have indicated that they will abandon harvest and graze their sorghum fields rather than attempt a later harvest.

Peanuts: Peanut harvest moved ahead in most remaining areas during the week. Harvest was fast and furious during the majority of the week, however in late week conditions declined and harvest efforts responded accordingly. Grade and yield problems continued for many producers.

Fruit, Vegetable and Specialty Crop Report

In the **Rio Grande Valley**, progress remained good for early planted vegetables. Harvest of early citrus and sugarcane remained active across the area.

In the **San Antonio-Winter Garden**, land preparation moved ahead in a few locations during the week. Harvest of early cabbage and spinach was slow, but active across the area. Onions and carrots continued to make good progress.

In **East Texas**, harvest of cabbage, mustard and collard greens was active where conditions were favorable.

In the **High Plains**, soils were generally too muddy for land preparation efforts during the week. At this time producers were more interested in remaining harvest; land preparation will come soon enough.

In the **Trans Pecos**, preparation for onion planting was underway in many locations. Preparations for pecan harvest moved ahead as shuck split has improved with the recent freezing temperatures.

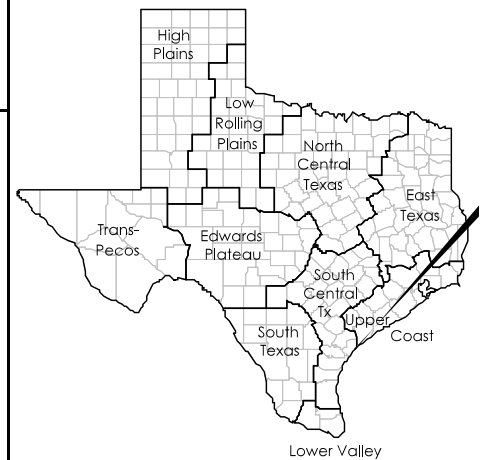
Pecans: Harvest efforts increased as the result of better conditions during early week, however many orchards remained excessively muddy and harvest was slow in these locations. In late week conditions declined across most areas of the state with additional moisture being received. As a result of the present weather pattern, many producers were concerned about the possibility of pecans sprouting in the hull and causing a further decline in grade.

Livestock, Pasture and Range Report

Benefit to range and pastures across the state continued as the result of the above average rainfall in recent months. Pasture damage continued to be an issue for many producers and several cattle herds were being held in dry lot awaiting adequate drying. Supplemental feeding increased across the majority of the state as the result of hard freezes. Some producers were able to complete haying operations in the dryer locations. Livestock sickness was severe in some locations with large amounts of chronically ill cattle resulting from several weeks of rain and cool to cold weather conditions.

Weather Information Table ¹

National Weather Service Climatic Divisions	Previous week (Nov 29 - Dec 5) Accumulation	Month-to-date (Nov 1 - 30) Accumulation	Year-to-date (Jan 1 - Dec 5) Accumulation	1961-90 Annual Normal	Previous three months (Sep - Nov) Percent of Normal
High Plains	0.07	4.38	27.09	18.87	235
Low Rolling Plains	0.05	5.36	26.91	23.78	132
North Central Texas	0.36	5.71	39.31	34.00	127
East Texas	1.03	7.82	46.02	45.69	112
Trans Pecos	0.04	2.61	19.54	12.96	178
Edwards Plateau	0.13	4.47	30.07	24.01	142
South Central Texas	0.20	6.48	37.15	34.48	134
Upper Coast	0.29	12.51	57.44	47.63	136
South Texas	0.02	2.05	22.44	23.49	103
Lower Valley	0.54	1.19	26.64	25.34	109



¹ Average of all stations reporting precipitation data.

Top Soil Moisture by District - December 5, 2004 *

Condition	1-N	1-S	2-N	2-S	3	4	5-N	5-S	6	7	8-N	8-S	9	10-N	10-S
	Percent of Acreage														
Very Short	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	6	0	0	3	0	3	0
Short	0	3	8	5	3	0	0	0	23	10	0	22	0	16	70
Adequate	47	53	63	54	63	23	31	38	70	70	52	75	10	65	30
Surplus	53	43	28	41	34	77	69	62	1	20	48	0	90	16	0

* High Plains: 1-N, 1-S; Low Rolling Plains: 2-N, 2-S; North Central Plains: 3, 4; East Texas: 5-N, 5-S. Trans-Pecos: 6; Edwards Plateau: 7; South Central Texas: 8-N, 8-S; Upper Coast: 9; South Texas: 10-N; Lower Valley: 10-S.

Cooperating Agencies:

Texas Agricultural Extension Service, Texas Department of Agriculture, National Weather Service.

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